The Humble

ADDRESSE

Of the BAPTIZED

CHURCHES,

Consisting of

OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, and others,

VValking in Gospell-Order at

Leith, *Edinburgh*, and

St. *Johnstoun.*

WORCESTER COLLEGE OXFORD LIBRARY

EDINBURGH,

Printed in the Year 1655.

To the ſober minded READER.

THe ſerious Conſideration of the Reaſons rendered in the enſuing Addreſſe, for our preſent great neceſſity of declaring ſomething for our ſelves, In ſuch a manner have likewiſe prevailed with us to commit the ſame to the Preſſe, that ſo it might rather be transferred to others by our own hands, then by any other way.

Wherefore, though it may eaſily be believed, that we can take no pleaſure to appear before the World in ſuch a publick way upon ſuch an occaſion; yet ſince there is no other ordinary Expedient left us, we embrace this, That we may (not ſo much ſpeak for our ſelves, as for the juſt principles that we have made profeſſion of, (which by ſome are again called in queſtion, though the ſame are already upon the ſtage of the world, in the Confeſſion of Faith often Printed by the Churches of London, and once by us at Leith) in which through grace we yet ſtand, and by which we might be better known, then by the unjuſt and falſe deſcription of our Enemies; Yet ſeeing we find by ſad experience, that the hard ſpeeches and evill ſuggeſtions of our Adverſaries doth meet with too much place in the hearts of others that profeſſe more acquaintance with the Lord, by which the root of prejudice and bitterneſſe is ready to grow up in their ſpirits, to the Truths diſadvantage; and well knowing, (that though we our ſelves are never ſo low) yet innocencie may have ſo much boldneſſe as to ſhew it ſelf in the ſtreets, to face and outface, ours and its Enemies; it being that which we finde hath not been without a preſident for the Lords holy ones in caſes not much unlike ours, to make their juſt and lawfull defence: as in the caſe of Paul and others. Acts 21 37. 40. and Ch. 24. 10. We may alſo in the words of the ſame Apoſtle ſay, v. 13. 14. that with reſpect to the many aſperſions, calumnies, and diſgracefull charges which evill men have not ſtuck to faſten on us (either of an Antimagiſtratical deſign or any other) they cannot prove the things whereof they accuſe us, &c. We therefore deſire thee, to vouchſafe an impartiall eye upon this our preſent undertaking, putting thy ſelf into our condition of reproach, and we doubt not but thou wilt with us ſee good reaſon for this preſent worke; however, we ſhall commit our cauſe to him that judgeth righteouſly; not ceaſing to bleſſe, while

men curse, and in all our endeavours strive to exercise a good Conscience toward God and men; that what we have here tendered in words, may through the assistance of Divine grace be found in all our works, to the honour of our Lord, and the credit of his precious, (though despised) Truth, which we are called to witnesse before the World. Now, that all may tend to the effectuall conviction, yea, a spirituall conversion of those that would have our Names cut off from the Earth; We shall bear them upon the wings of our prayers into the presence of the God of mercy, till the expected coming of our great Lord Jesus.

Leith, this 24. of the 11. Month. 1654.

John Pearson
Thomas Paull.
Benjam. Hewling.
Robert Read.
George Walton.
John Wells.

To the Right Honorable GENERALL MONCK, *Commander in Chief of all the Forces in* SCOTLAND.

May it please your Honour.

THat good hand of Providence which called many of us into the Armies, from the beginning of the late Inteſtine Troubles, hath alſo (to our comfort, kept us hitherto free from thoſe works of darkneſs) which tend to deviſion and confuſion, both in State and Army.

Therefore We deſire by this our humble Addreſs to vindicate our Integritie (before Men and Angels) from thoſe calumnies lately caſt upon us, making us the Authors of diſſention and diſturbance to the publick Peace, when on the contrary our Conſciences bear us witneſſe, That our weak endeavours have been to promote the publick Intereſt, in the greateſt danger and hardſhips, to which alſo we have improved our portion in Heaven, by prayers and tears to him that was able to ſave. And now at length we are ſo ſaved, that we are brought (by a continued ſeries of Providence, through all the viſible difficulties of a twelve years War) to a bleſſed hope and expectation of reaping a harveſt of Reſt and Peace. We are grieved, and cannot but mourn to ſee that Raging ſpirit of Enmity in the hearts of men, bent to deſtroy their Brethren. Some like *Korah* and his Companions, labouring to turn the People from Obedience to their Leaders, others by falſe ſurmiſes and open reproaches, endeavouring to exaſperate the ſpirits of Superiours againſt their people, ſo that if there were any In-

chantment against *Jacob*, or divination against *Israel*, if men could have curſed where God hath bleſſed, they had ere this involved the Nations into blood again. And as no Age (ſince *Israels* coming out of *Egypt*) can parallel the great and weighty Works of God, for a poor deſpiſed people with this we live in, even ſo we are perſwaded there was never more ſubtilties of Satan (under ſpecious pretences of Religion, Conſcience both in Eccleſiaſticks and Politicks) then this Age hath produced. Therefore we have cauſe to judge, that theſe late devices of ſome men, are but new tricks of the Old Deceiver, to ſubvert the foundations of good Government, and hinder an eſtabliſhed Liberty to Gods people, that in the midſt of our diviſions, he might more eaſily ſtrengthen his Own Kingdom, and in time bring yoke again upon the neck of Saints.

But that which is our greateſt trouble in the midſt of theſe ſtirs, is, to ſee that any who have profeſſed Godlineſſe, or any Member of our Body, ſhould give the leaſt occaſion to be ſuſpected to joyn hands with Workers of Iniquitie, by whoſe miſ-carriage the honour of Chriſt, Religion, and our ſelves lies obnoxious to the calumnies of ſuch, who delight to render our Profeſſion odious, and wait for occaſion to ſay of us, as ſometimes it was ſaid of our betters, *Theſe are they that turn the World up-ſide down, charging us with deſpiſing Dominions, and ſpeaking evil of Dignities*, as if our deſignes were to pull down others, that we might ſet up our ſelves.

Now, leſt our ſilence in this day of ſlander ſhould ſeem to plead us guilty, we are preſſed in our Conſciences, Firſt from the deep ſenſe of the honor of God that lies at ſtake, and ſecondly out of Duty to his Highneſſe, your Honour, and all good men, to preſent this our humble *ADDRESSE*, to clear our Innocencie from thoſe unjuſt aſperſions we are charged with, through the defect of one; we know no more in our ſocietie under ſuſpition of guilt in this matter.

1. We do therefore, as in the preſence of the ſearcher of hearts declare, That we are altogether innocent and ignorant of any plotting, or contriving with any perſons whatſoever, in this deſign ſpoken of, or in any other tending to diviſion in State or Army.

2. We do diſ-own all ſuch (though our Brethren) that were, or may be found Contrivers or Fomentors of any the foreſaid wicked devices, and bear our teſtimony againſt ſuch, as great ſinners, and as Enemies to the Publick Peace and welfare of the Nations.

3. We

3. We do declare hereby Freedom in owning the present Magistracie and Authoritie set over us by the good Providence of God, in the hands of our present Governors and Governor in Chief, to whom We owe, not onely our Civil subject on for Conscience sake, but also our prayers and supplications for a Blessing upon their righteous endeavors, and that at the end of their work, they may receive that Immortall Crown of Righteousnesse as a Reward for all that hath or shal be done by them, for God and his poor people.

4. Seing it is the design of our Enemy, to brand us as those that would throw down others to set up our selves and Interests. We do hereby manifest unto your Honour, so to all the World, That it is neither our opinion or desire, that men of our judgement, or any other particular interest or faction of men (so called) should be set up to Lord it over their differing Brethren, but count it a mercy that there is a curb upon each Interest, and yet all have their Liberty; As for our parts, we lay no other claim to State Affairs, or great Places, then our Nationall Birthright, in a peaceable subjection to the Power set over us; our greatest expected freedom being quietly to worship God, which freedom, we conceive is a fruit of the purchase of our dear Redeemer, in answer to prayers of many Generations, and a nine years contest, with tears and blood; And in this we are confident to have the favourable aspects of his Highnesse the *Lord Protector*, your Honour, and all unbyased Christians: And, as for those other expected good things for the Nations and our selves as part, we are taught by the husband-man that laboureth to wait with patience, till the Lord cause the early and latter rains of heaven to water the hearts of Governours, and Governed, that the fruits of Righteousnesse, Love, and Meekneſse may more abundantly appear in a wise and holy conversation; then will Magistrates be more apt to Rule, and People more ready to obey, and the Nation, more fit to receive those mercies, which we fear their unworthinesse hinders.

And now having freely opened our hearts, as in the presence of the Almighty, we dare appeal from Heaven to Earth, and let our Enemies be our Judges; *yea, if we have done this, if iniquity be in our hands, let the enemy tread down our lives upon the earth and lay our honour in the dust; but our defence is of God, Who saveth the upright in heart.* And we hope when your Honour has considered this our humble Addresse (wherein we minde only plainnesse and truth, measuring our words

words with the uprightness of our hearts,) we may expect the continuance of your Honours good affection, which we shall alwayes endeavour to answer, in all humble submission to your just Commands, with earnest desire, for a portion of heavenly wisdom to direct you in going in and out before so great a People. And if any think we plead too freely in our own cause, let them but consider; its matter of fact we are charged with, and they will say, its lawfull for us to plead, *not guilty*, and we desire the necessity of Union amongst good men, in this day (when division is our Enemies greatest strength) may make our Apologie, for this trouble; there being nothing that will more rejoyce our hearts, then to see the Lords People in the Nations and Army, to joyne hearts and hands with their Leaders to advance the great Work of God, begun in our dayes.

Wherefore we hope, we shall not cease night and day beseeching the great Shepherd of *Israel* to give unto his poor scattered Flock one heart to fear him, that they may stand fast in one spirit, with one minde, striving together for the Faith of the Gospel, that the beloved of his soul may be but one; Protector, Parliament, and People one; Generals, Commanders, Superiors, and Inferiors, (fearing God) to be all one, in, and for Christ, and the promotion of his Kingdom in this World; Then might we assuredly expect that the Lord would go forth with our Army, that his glory would dwell in our Camps, and that he would delight in us to do us good, and still use us as his poor Instruments in the rest of his Work; and at length cause Righteousnesse, Peace, Truth, Love, Meeknesse, and Sweetnesse to flow forth from Rulers to People, and People to Rulers, so shall all of us have occasion to blesse God for such Magistrates, and they to blesse God for such a People, and both Rulers and People with joynt consent, will have abundant cause to praise the Lord for his unspeakable mercy.

Signed in the Name, and by joynt consent of the Whole.

FINIS.